

Florence, New Jersey
January 6, 2016

The Council of the Township of Florence met at the **Duffy School**, 203 West 2nd Street, Florence, New Jersey on the above date for the purpose of organizing for the ensuing year and for the transaction of other business which might properly come before it.

The meeting was called to order by the Township Clerk, Joy Weiler, at 7:00 PM. She then led the Salute to the Flag.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was posted on the municipal bulletin board on December 1, 2015; published in the Burlington County Times on December 6, 2015, placed on the Township website and Channel 19; given to the Trenton Times for information on December 1, 2015.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Mayor Wilkie was sworn in by Township Clerk Joy Weiler. The bible was held by his wife and daughters. Mayor Wilkie said this is the last Reorganization Meeting for Clerk Weiler. He was honored to have her swear him in. Four years ago he was sworn in by his good friend Judge Philip Haines. Before that when he was elected to Council, Clerk Weiler swore him in. He thanked her.

At this time Council Member Sandusky joined Mayor Wilkie. Mayor Wilkie said he and Members of Council had a special presentation for Clerk Joy Weiler for her last Reorganization Meeting since she is retiring at the end of this year. She started with Florence Township in December of 1988. She has given twenty-eight years of service to the residents of Florence Township. Her predecessor, Norman Hamilton, served thirty years and was also a school teacher at the Duffy School. The Mayor thanked Clerk Weiler for all of her dedicated service.

Council Member Sandusky said that when Township Clerk Weiler told the Mayor and Council that she was leaving the end of 2016, they were stunned and a bit upset but happy for her too. She has been very dedicated to Florence Township. On behalf of the Mayor and Members of Council he presented her with flowers and thanked her for her service. Clerk Weiler thanked the Mayor and Council for their thoughtfulness.

Mayor Wilkie thanked his family for their support. He is away from home a good amount of time and they are very supportive. He thanked his friends and family for attending the meeting this evening. His three brothers were in attendance. He noted some special people in attendance who have been very helpful and supportive of him.

At this time **Burlington County Clerk Timothy Tyler** came forward to administer the **Oath of Office to Theodore J. "Ted" Lovenduski** for Councilman At Large. Mr. Lovenduski's wife and daughter held the bible as the oath was administered.

Florence Township Council Reorganization Meeting 1/6/16

Council Member Lovenduski thanked everyone for their support. He hoped to continue what was started four years ago. The township is moving in the right direction and he would like to see that continue.

At this time County Clerk Tyler swore in **Paul Ostrander as Councilman At Large** as Mr. Ostrander's wife and grandchildren held the bible. Council Member Ostrander thanked everyone for coming, especially in this venue. His children went to school at Duffy, it was like going back in time. He remembered the first time he was in the building for an open house for one of his children and the lights went out and the building was completely dark. He worked in utilities management, so he offered to help and served on the school board and that was the beginning of his service to the community. His wife grew up in town and her parents have been here their entire lives. He decided this was the place where he wanted to settle. He thanked everyone for their support and for helping him realize a second term on council. His goal and hopes are to keep the town moving forward.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Frank K. Baldorossi, Jr.
Theodore J. "Ted" Lovenduski
Paul C. Ostrander
Jerry Sandusky
David B. Woolston

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator;
Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Joy M. Weiler,
Township Clerk

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

The Township Clerk opened the nominations for **President of Council**.

It was on the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to nominate **Ted Lovenduski** as Council President.

There being no further nominations, it was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ostrander to close the nominations. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

Upon roll call for **Lovenduski**, the Council voted as follows:

YEAS:	Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None

Unanimous approval.

Clerk Weiler asked **Council President Lovenduski** to take the chair and preside over the meeting.

Florence Township Council Reorganization Meeting 1/6/16

VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Council President Lovenduski opened the nominations for **Vice President of Council**.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to nominate **Paul Ostrander** as Vice President of Council.

There being no further nominations, it was on the MOTION of Lovenduski, seconded by Sandusky to close the nominations. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

Upon roll call for **Paul Ostrander**, the Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Zoning Board

It was on the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to appoint **Larry Lutz** to the Zoning Board for a four year term expiring December 31, 2019, **Joseph Cartier** to a four year term expiring December 31, 2019, **Anthony Drangula** as Alt. # 1 for a two year unexpired term expiring December 31, 2017 and **Margo Mattis** as Alt. #2 to a two year unexpired term expiring December 31, 2016.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

Cross Acceptance Representatives, Burlington Co. Route 130 Corridor(1 year term)

Newell Kehr

B. Michael Zekas

Barbara Fegley, Township Planner

Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator

Richard Brook, Township Administrator

It was on the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to appoint those listed above as Cross Acceptance Representatives, Burlington County Route 130 Corridor with terms running for one year expiring December 31, 2016.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

It was the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to appoint **Chris Pair** to the Housing Authority for a 5 year unexpired term expiring July 31, 2017.

Florence Township Council Reorganization Meeting 1/6/16

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ostrander to nominate **Ted Lovenduski** as the Council Representative to the **Planning Board** for a one year term.

It was on the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to nominate **Jerry Sandusky** as the Council Representative to the **Environmental Commission** for a one year term.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ostrander to nominate **David Woolston** as the Council Representative to the **Recreation Committee** for a one year term.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Lovenduski to nominate **Paul Ostrander** as the Council Representative to the **Economic Development Committee** for a one year term.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

Township Auditor

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to appoint **John J. Maley, Jr.** as the Township Auditor.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

(A formal Resolution will be approved during the meeting.)

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONFIRM MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Wilkie recommended the following **professional appointments** to Township Council for their approval:

Township Solicitor

Township Engineer

Township Planner

COAH Planner

Township Water & Sewer Engineer

Prosecutor

Public Defender

Capehart Scatchard

Maser Consulting, P.A.

Environmental Resolutions, Inc.

Clarke, Caton, Hintz

Richard A. Alaimo Association of Engineers

Andrew Smith, Esq.

James D. Fattorini, Esq.

Florence Township Council Reorganization Meeting 1/6/16

Bond Counsel	Capehart Scatchard
Conflict Public Defender	Robert Perry
Special Projects/Conflict Engineer	Richard A. Alaimo Assoc. of Engineers
	Pennoni Associates, Inc.
	Environmental Resolutions, Inc.
Conflict Engineer	Dante Guzzi Engineering Associates, L.L.C.
Insurance Broker	AJM Insurance

<u>Commission</u>	<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>
Recreation Committee, Class 2, Mayor Rep.	Al Garcia	12/31/2016
Recreation Committee	Cathy MacArthur	12/31/2020

It was the MOTION of Woolston; seconded by Lovenduski to approve the **Mayor's Professional Appointments for 2016** (Formal Resolutions will be approved during the meeting.) and **Recreation Appointments**.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

MAYOR PRESENTS 2016 APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Wilkie presented the following Mayoral appointments:

Municipal Alliance Membership, Mayor Rep.	Martin J. Eckert, Jr.	12/31/2016
American with Disabilities Comm.	Joy M. Weiler	12/31/2016
American with Disabilities Comm.	Richard A. Brook	12/31/2016
American with Disabilities Comm.	Thomas Layou	12/31/2016
American with Disabilities Comm.	Randy Belknap	12/31/2016
American with Disabilities Comm.	Tim Lutz	12/31/2016
CDBG Representative	Thomas A. Sahol	12/31/2016
Delaware Estuary Program	Paul Ordog	12/31/2016
Historic Preservation Commission, Class C	Wayne Morris	12/31/2019
Historic Preservation Commission, Class C, Alt #1	Barbara Opre	12/31/2017
Planning Board, Class 4, Alt. #1	Ray Montgomery	12/31/2016
Planning Board, Class 2	Wayne Morris	12/31/2016
Planning Board, Class 4	William Federico	12/31/2019
Environmental Commission, Planning Board Rep.	William Federico	12/31/2016
Environmental Commission	George Lengel	12/31/2018
Environmental Commission	Joseph Csik	12/31/2018
Shade Tree Commission	Albert Jacoby, Sr.	12/31/2020
Economic Development Committee	B. Michael Zekas	12/31/2016
Economic Development Committee	Newell Kehr	12/31/2016
Economic Development Committee	Tara Sandusky	12/31/2016
Economic Development Committee	Kevin Minton	12/31/2016
Economic Development Committee	Thomas McCue	12/31/2016
Economic Development Committee	Emma Cartier	12/31/2016

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01

**ANNUAL NOTICE AND SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 231, P.L. 1975**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-02

TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2016

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-03

DESIGNATING DEPOSITORIES

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-04

ACCOUNTS DEPOSITED AT NEW JERSEY CASH MANAGEMENT FUND

RESOLUTION 2016-05

ACCOUNTS DEPOSITED AT NATIONAL PENN BANK

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-06

ESTABLISHING A CHARGE FOR RETURNED CHECKS

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-07

**AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR
(*Capehart Scatchard*)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-08

**AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH TOWNSHIP ENGINEER
(*Maser Consulting*)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-09

**AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF BOND COUNSEL
(*Capehart Scatchard*)**

Florence Township Council Reorganization Meeting 1/6/16

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-10

**AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP WATER & SEWER
ENGINEER**

(Richard A. Alaimo Association of Engineers)

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-11

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF PROSECUTOR

(Andrew Smith, Esq.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-12

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENDER

(James D. Fattorini, Esq.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-13

APPOINTING TAX SEARCH OFFICER

(Mary Anne Brown)

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-14

DESIGNATION OF MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT SEARCH OFFICER

(Joy Weiler)

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-15

APPOINT DEPUTY TOWNSHIP CLERK

(Richard Brook)

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-16

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

(John J. Maley, Jr.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-17

APPOINTING ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

(George Ondusko)

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-18

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF ORGANIZATIONS
TO PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE**

Florence Township Council Reorganization Meeting 1/6/16

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-19

**APPOINTING RECYCLING COORDINATOR
(*Thomas Sahol*)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-20

**APPOINTING ROAD INSPECTOR
(*Richard Pendle*)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-21

APPOINTING TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTES FOR MUNICIPAL PROSECUTORS

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-22

**AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, SANDRA A. BLACKER, TO
MAKE MUNICIPAL DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS
AS PER THE CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-23

**APPOINTING TOWNSHIP CLERK AS
PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER
(*Joy Weiler*)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-24

**APPOINT THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR, RICHARD A. BROOK,
AS THE JOINT INSURANCE FUND COMMISSIONER**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-25

ADOPTING CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-26

**ADOPTION OF A DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE DRUG FREE WORKPLACE ACT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-27

**APPROVE MUNICIPAL STORMWATER
PROGRAM COORDINATOR
(*Richard Pendle*)**

Florence Township Council Reorganization Meeting 1/6/16

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-28

**A RESOLUTION FIXING INTEREST RATES AND PENALTIES
ON DELINQUENT TAXES AND MUNICIPAL CHARGES AND FIXING
ADDITIONAL SUMS TO BE PAID TO THE HOLDER OF A TAX
TITLE UPON REDEMPTION**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-29

**AUTHORIZING THE TAX ASSESSOR OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE TO FILE APPEALS, OMITTED AND
ADDED ASSESSMENT APPEALS, AND ROLL BACK COMPLAINTS WITH
THE BURLINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-30

**AUTHORIZE APPOINTMENT OF CONFLICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
*(Robert Perry, Esq.)***

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-31

**AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF A COAH PLANNER
FOR COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING
*(Clarke, Caton, Hintz)***

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-32

**AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH CONFLICT/SPECIAL PROJECTS ENGINEER**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-33

**APPOINT CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGENT AND
INDEPENDENT REGISTERED MUNICIPAL ADVISOR
*(Phoenix Advisors)***

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-34

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A MUNICIPAL
PLANNER
*(Environmental Resolutions, Inc.)***

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-35

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS WITH CERTAIN APPROVED
STATE CONTRACT VENDORS FOR CONTRACTING UNITS
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a**

Florence Township Council Reorganization Meeting 1/6/16

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-36

**AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT AS CONFLICT ENGINEER
AND AWARDING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH DANTE GUZZI ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-37

**APPOINTING DEPUTY ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER
(George Gareis)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-38

**APPOINT HEALTH INSURANCE BROKER
ANDREW JACKSON METTS (AJM INSURANCE)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-39

**APPOINTING MUNICIPAL JUDGE
(Richard E. Andronici)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-40

**AUTHORIZE REFUND
CONSTRUCTION CODE OFFICE**

It was on the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolutions 2016-01 through 2016-40.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-01

**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE ADOPTING A
REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR PARCELS WITHIN THE ROUTE 130
REDEVELOPMENT AREA**

(1st Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 1/20/16)

Mayor Wilkie stated these two ordinances are for redevelopment along Railroad Avenue and Cedar Lane. It is the former Super Fresh site. The old buildings are being demolished and there will be a new 600,000 square foot building. It complies with everything but some adjustments were made.

Florence Township Council Reorganization 1/6/16

Noise was an issue in the past at this site. The new building will be situated much closer to Cedar Lane, away from the residences in the area. The facility that is being planned is very nice. This is one step in a series of steps to get the project going. The township named the site an “area in need of redevelopment” and the planner created a Redevelopment Plan. The Planning Board reviewed it and recommended to Council it be approved. Tonight is the first reading for the ordinances. The public hearing will be in two weeks at the municipal building.

It was the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2016-01 and set the public hearing and adoption for January 20, 2016.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-02

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE ADOPTING A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR PARCELS WITHIN THE ROUTE 130 DEVELOPEMNT AREA

(1st Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 1/20/16)

It was the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2016-02 and set the public hearing and adoption for January 20, 2016.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Sandusky, to receive and file the Court Administrator, Township Clerk and Tax Collector’s Tax and Water & Sewer reports for December. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

It was on the MOTION of Woolston; seconded by Sandusky to approve the **Treasurer’s Bill List**.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

MINUTES

None at this time.

Florence Township Council Reorganization Meeting 1/6/16

CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

None at this time.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Wilkie gave his annual state of the township slide presentation at this time. The presentation highlighted some of the accomplishments of the previous year and some of what is planned for the upcoming year. He noted that in **2022 Florence Township** will celebrate its **150th Anniversary**.

Twenty-five years ago the veterans of the community created a veteran's monument. In the coming year he plans rededicate the monument. Resident Dick Glass was part of the original committee.

He noted there were copies of the **Township Calendar** available at this meeting. It has a large amount of information and is very helpful to the residents.

A long time tradition in town is the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** sponsored by Boyd's Pharmacy and the Fire Department. It is a nice community event.

There is now a memorial for **Ptl. Walter Kotch**, the only Florence Township police officer ever lost in the line of duty. A friend of the family provided a nice picture. He was killed on a Good Friday. It was a very sad situation.

Every year the township participates in the **National Day of Prayer**. Clerk Weiler coordinates the event at the Municipal Building. It is always held the first Thursday in May. He encouraged those in attendance to participate.

The Police Department began holding its annual **Bike Rodeo** a few years ago. This year the township added a **Wellness Day** component. It was held on the Memorial Day weekend. It was very well attended.

Also this year the township employees' team won the **Mayor's Cup Tournament** for the second year in a row. It was great to see the teams and their families get together and have fun.

2015 was the **100th Anniversary** of the **local Boy Scouts**. There was a large amount of time spent celebrating that milestone. It is a very successful program that continues to grow. It teaches the children leadership skills and he is glad to be able to be a part of it.

Orlando Southerland, who was a Scout Leader for twenty-five years, was honored for all he had given to the program and was named Grand Marshal of the **Patriotic Day Parade**. The scouts also honored **Mayor Wilkie** with the **North Star Award**, the highest honor that can be presented to someone that is not a member of the scouts. Mayor Wilkie stated that he felt very honored to receive it.

Florence Township Council Reorganization Meeting 1/6/16

Sadly, a local boy was very badly hurt in an accident and a blood drive was held to help him. The drive was well received and response was good.

Nicole Sadler, a resident who is very involved in the community, held a **toy drive** at the college she attends. She showed that the Florence spirit branches out.

He said many of the local children are involved in **recreation sports**. This year there were 246 children signed up for spring sports, 484 for fall sports and 283 for winter sports. This year was the introduction of on-line registration. It is easier and more ecofriendly.

Through partnerships in the community Florence Township was able to provide special programs for local youth. The **Philadelphia 76ers** had a clinic for those playing basketball and the **Philadelphia Soul** and cheerleaders worked with our local football players and cheerleaders. **Recreation Coordinator Martin Eckert** was instrumental in making these events happen.

This past year the fence at the new **Roebbling Park** was removed. At a subsequent meeting a resident asked how long the walking path was. It was not known at that time so the resident measured and reported it was 1.26 miles long. Until now the township owned the property but did not have control of it. As of January 1st, the township does have control of it and can install benches and trash receptacles. He would like to form a community based committee to make suggestions for uses of the space. Have more community involvement.

Over his last four years in office, Mayor Wilkie said he has been able to participate in many church celebrations. This past year was the **150th Anniversary of Providence Presbyterian Church**. A nice ceremony was held under the trees where the congregation used to meet in the early days of the church.

Regarding development on **Route 130**, he said someone asked him if he planned for it to happen or if it just happened? The township ran water and sewer to Route 130 in the past to make the area more attractive for development and it worked. Also, some blight in the area has been removed or is going to be removed. NFI has been working as a partner with the community and is working with Florence Township.

He reviewed some of the recent and on-going projects in the Route 130 area.

There was a replanting project in 2015. Florence Township received a **\$15,000 grant**. **Trees** were removed about four years ago in preparation and this year there were trees planted on Sixth Avenue, Front Street and Broad Street.

Mayor Wilkie noted that Phase II of the **Old York Road Bike Path** was completed. This was a grant that was awarded before he came into office. During his term farm land was purchased by the township that made it possible to complete the path.

Florence Township Council Reorganization Meeting 1/6/16

One woman told him that the path made it possible for her to visit her son without and help. She can't really walk long distances but was able to ride her scooter all the way to his house now that the path is complete.

Repairs and improvements were completed at the **Florence Township Library**. The roof was replaced and the lighting was updated. It's much brighter and more energy efficient.

The **Community Development Block Grant** was used for sidewalks on Railroad Avenue in Roebling and Hamilton Avenue. The work that was done greatly improves pedestrian safety in these areas.

The **Burlington County Parks Grant** was used to install safety surfaces at the township's playgrounds. There are only three parks still left to be resurfaced. It is a nice rubber surface and there are no wood chips or sand. From a safety perspective, it is easier for children to walk in and out of the tot lot area. From a maintenance perspective, there is less need for upkeep by the Public Works Department. It is also handicapped accessible.

The last time work was done on **Hornberger Avenue** was in the 1990's. The road is going to be paved from Delaware Avenue to Parrish Lane.

Florence Township has been very energetic concerning the **Road Programs**. There is a lot of work that needs to be done and there are already roads identified for 2017. The streets need to be repaired and the township is doing the best it can.

The property 220 Foundry Street, the old **Green Star Inn** that was owned by the Agostinelli family from the 30's until the 70's, was rehabilitated. The property had become an eyesore. The township partnered with representatives of the Fountain of Life Center. The property was renovated and converted into six affordable housing units. There was also a property rehabbed at the corner of Hornberger and Norman Avenues.

This past year the **Duffy Apartments** opened. It is a very nice facility and it was a great partnership with the town, Mend and Conifer. The property was nominated for a place on the **State and National Register of Historic Places**. The township received recognition for the project for affordable housing.

Unfortunately Burlington Township had some very sad events. Two children there committed suicide. Florence Township came together to show its support for the neighboring town.

A new police officer, **Ptl. Paul Wright**, was sworn in during 2015. The **Police Department** received fourteen booster seats for residents in need.

Betty Wargo retired from the Police Department last year after 21 years and **Gino James** retired from the Public Works Department last month after 33 years.

Florence Township Council Reorganization Meeting 1/6/16

Mayor Wilkie said the township's neighbors across the river that have been the source of odors in Florence for quite a while will be closing thanks to the efforts of the residents here. The problem is being addressed. He applauded the efforts of the residents.

There are still concerns over a proposed treatment plant on the other side of the river. Florence Township will continue to be vocal and oppose the project.

The Register News, that many years ago was the **Florence Township News**, has folded. Florence Township is taking initiatives to reach residents through social media. The Police Department is also using social media to reach residents and keep them informed.

Florence Township renewed its contract with **Comcast** for its cable provider. He said they are the only game in town and he is hoping they will work with the town and provide good service.

The township was pleased to be part of a second **Good Neighbor Award** as part of the Destination Maternity project. Florence Township also welcomed **Dollar Tree** and local centenarian Frances Almasy cut the ribbon at the grand opening.

Florence Township continues to remove blight from the area. Two examples are two properties on **Railroad Avenue**. This is an effort the township plans to continue.

Ready Pac will be staying in the community and possibly expanding. The facility is about thirty percent of the Water & Sewer budget. They were given tax incentives from the State of NJ.

Demolition of the old Superfresh has begun. It will make way for a very nice new facility. The building spec drawings look very good. The **Liberty Property Trust** project on Cedar Lane by the water tower is moving along as well. There will be improvements to the intersection of Cedar Lane and Railroad Avenue. A roundabout is going to be installed to improve safety at the area.

Florence Township will be acquiring the **Pinto** property. It only makes sense because in the future there will be improvements made to that gateway into the community. The **Roebbing Steel Mill** is still a priority for Florence Township. Right now it is not capped. Capping will be part of the redevelopment of the property.

There is a new owner of the **Griffin Pipe** site. They are going to remediate the site and cap it for future use. It is also moving forward.

The township will be acquiring the **Marconi Lodge**. Unfortunately, it had to shut down after many years.

This concluded the slide presentation. Mayor Wilkie thanked everyone for coming out and for all of the support. He said he is looking forward to another good year and to working with everyone to keep Florence Township moving forward.

Florence Township Council Reorganization Meeting 1/6/16

Council Member Sandusky echoed the sentiments and noted that there were former Florence Township Council Members in attendance; he thanked them and everyone else for coming. He thanked MEND for their work on the Duffy project and for allowing the meeting to be held here this evening. He also thanked Mayor Wilkie.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time Council President Lovenduski opened the meeting to the public for comment.

Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the MOTION of Woolston; seconded by Sandusky to close the public comment. Roll call vote - all ayes.

8:05 PM MOTION by Woolston; seconded by Sandusky to adjourn. Roll call vote - all ayes. Unanimous approval.

ADJOURNMENT 8:05 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/aek